

Faculty Senate Minutes
September 4, 2003
3:30 PM Taylor 306

Faculty Marshal Larry Ham called the first meeting of the 2003/04 academic year to order at 3:30PM. Members present included:

Jose Barrio-Olano, Foreign Languages and Literatures; **David Bernstein**, Computer Science; **Michael Busing**, Computer Information Systems; **Stephanie Chisolm**, Health Science; **Rory DePaolis**, Communication Sciences and Disorders; **Beth Eck**, Sociology and Anthropology; **Geoff Egekwu**, Integrated Science and Technology; **Alex Gabbin**, Accounting; **Steve Garren**, Mathematics and Statistics; **John Gilje**, Chemistry; **Cynthia Gilliatt**, English; **Larry Ham**, Kinesiology and Recreation Studies; **Jason Haney**, School of Music; **Bob Jerome**, Economics; **Bill Knorpp**, Philosophy and Religion; **Val Larsen**, Marketing; **Reba Leiding**, Libraries; **Robert Lembright**, History; **Tim Michael** (for Brooks Marshall), Finance and Business Law; **Dietrich Maune**, Media Arts and Design; **Roberta Mitchell**, Communication Studies; **William O'Meara**, Philosophy and Religion; **Gene Robinson**, Geology; **Judith Rocchiccioli**, Nursing; **Mark Rooker**, Art and Art History; **Jim Ruff**, English; **Craig Shealy**, Psychology (Grad.); **Michael Smilowitz**, Communication Studies and **John Wolf**, Military Science.

Guests included: **Doug Brown**, **Teresa Gonzalez** and **Susan Wheeler** from the Office of the Provost and **Lin Rose** and **Donna Harper** from the Office of the President.

President's Report:

President Rose was introduced and explained that there is a tradition that the president report to the senate in April after the general assembly completes its work but that this was not possible during the past spring. Lin also serves on the NCAA board of directors and he needed to be at that meeting to vote on various academic issues that came before the board. Lin congratulated Michael for his report at the first faculty meeting and also thanked the faculty for their part in the progress the University has made during the past five years despite severe budget constraints. Lin outlined his three primary objectives for the coming year. Increased tuition and fees resulted in a \$2 million increase in revenues over last year's base budget. Of this amount, \$1 million will be used for new faculty positions, \$500,000 for additional library acquisitions, \$300,000 for additional financial aid for students and \$200,000 for salary adjustments to address retention and compression issues beyond the 2.25% salary increase. In the next biennium Lin, with other college and university presidents, will encourage the General Assembly and the Governor to support funding to address base adequacy, faculty salary and benefit increases and financial aid to help offset tuition increases. If approved, this will provide an additional \$10-11 million per year for JMU. Meetings will take place during the next several weeks to discuss this matter between the presidents and the Governor's staff and representatives from the General Assembly. Lin listed several of his top priorities should this funding be made available. We are currently at a 17.4 to 1 student:faculty ratio. Lin would like to reduce this to 16:1. This would require an additional 71 positions. Salary increases and faculty development and staff training would also be pursued. Additional library acquisitions would be made as well. Tax reform will be necessary if the state is going to support these initiatives. The second area for Lin's attention will be a capital campaign. Last year was JMU's best year ever for fund raising. The four primary objectives for the campaign are faculty chairs, faculty professorships, athletic facilities (such as the Athletic Performance Center) and theater and recital facilities. \$500 million by 2008 is the current goal of the campaign. Lin's third objective is to increase diversity on the campus. Of 1033 classified staff members, 1007 are Caucasian. A task force will be created to review and prioritize goals and objectives put forth by past committees charged with looking at these issues. Individual committees will look at diversity among faculty staff and students. Lin will also continue to encourage improvement of the intellectual atmosphere on campus. The president encouraged the senate to review the 29 defining characteristics of JMU:

<http://centennial.jmu.edu/portfolio/definingchar.shtml>

and consider ways in which the senate can promote and advance some of them. We have five years to become the kind of institution we said we'd be by our centennial celebration.

In response to a question regarding diversity and whether our admission standards would be lowered to attract a more diverse student body, Lin indicated that he has asked for statistics regarding the number of African-American students who graduated from high schools in Virginia with SAT scores between 950 and 1250. Bill O'Meara suggested that a closer look at admission essays might be helpful in identifying students who have overcome obstacles to arrive where they are academically. Cynthia Gilliatt asked if we should look at those minority students who go to ODU and other institutions in Virginia with higher minority student populations and see if they applied to JMU. There was further discussion regarding ways to attract minority students to JMU.

Provost's Report:

Doug Brown thanked the faculty for their successful efforts in making this the best opening of the University in many years. He will be focused on several areas during the coming year. Achieving greater funding for our academic program is paramount. Efforts will be made to increase the number of faculty positions this year. The number of individuals qualified to fill these positions is lower than in the past due to a large number of retirements nationwide and the reputation of higher education in the state has suffered due to funding cuts made by the previous two state administrations. Many of the 130 positions currently filled by one-year appointments need to be filled by full-time, tenure track positions. Recent demographic information indicates that 75% of the working population in Virginia is below the educational poverty level. They are employable in the service industry and the traditional factory environment but not in high-tech firms. We need to convince this group of the importance of education, both K-12 as well as higher education. Doug looks forward to working with the senate in building relationships with high schools in order to attract non-traditional students. Child/elder care is currently being discussed by the University, Rockingham Memorial Hospital and Generations Crossings to provide child and elder care for our employees. Faculty salaries is a topic being discussed with the Board of Visitors and Doug is hopeful that the new board members are more sensitive to the need to increase faculty salaries. Doug indicated that the administration and the Faculty Senate are collaborating extremely well and are working toward the realization of common goals.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes were approved as electronically distributed.

New Business:

Bill O'Meara reported that three additional senators have been requested by David Zimmerman for the College of Education. He provided a brief history of the administrative changes that have taken place within the College. Michael Smilowitz reported that there are a variety of administrative structures among the academic programs of the University. In addition, it has been difficult to place representatives from each college on the various standing committees of the senate. Val Larson moved to affirm the Steering Committee's request to increase the College of Education's representation on the faculty senate by an additional three senators, Larry Ham seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Three amendments to the Senate Constitution were brought before the senate. The first recognizes the eligibility of the professional staff of the library for senate representation. The second permits RTA's who have served at the university for seven years to be appointed to the faculty senate appeals committee. The third will establish the budget committee as a permanent standing committee of the senate. These amendments will be circulated and discussed among the faculty and considered again by the full senate at the January 2004 meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

There is currently a balance of \$896.51 in the senate flower fund. \$7162.16 is the current balance in the senate's university account. A solicitation letter was distributed to the senators requesting that faculty pay their \$3 dues for the 2003/04 academic year.

Speaker's Report:

Michael reported that the June 2003 Board of Visitors meeting went very well. The Safe Zone issue was discussed and solved. Safe Zone stationary will not include JMU on its letterhead. The pregnancy prevention issue was not discussed at the June meeting. Michael will continue to be an advocate for faculty issues in his dealings with the Board of Visitors during the coming year.

The steering committee has established various initiatives for this year. We shall focus on professional development. The senate will attempt to bring all individuals working on this issue under a senate umbrella so all can work toward a common goal. The faculty morale survey has been redesigned to determine faculty development needs and the faculty concerns committee will define specific recommendations that Michael will take to the Board. Academic integrity will be actively discussed and recommendations proposed by the academic policies committee. With the Expanding Horizons program serving as a model, the senate will seek senior faculty to help create relationships with area schools to encourage non-traditional students to consider going to college in general and JMU in particular.

Committee Reports:

Academic Policies: Beth Eck encouraged the senators to discuss the matter of the Grading Policies and Recommendations with their faculty colleagues. This report may be found at the following Web site:

<http://web.jmu.edu/facultysenate/Documents/Grade%20Data/Academic%20Polices%20Committee%20Report.htm>

Beth also indicated that we need to elect a senate representative as the General Education liaison. Please bring any concerns regarding curriculum or academic policies to her committee.

Faculty Concerns: Cynthia Gilliatt reported that an RTA survey was conducted last spring and that the results will be reviewed and specific recommendations will be brought before the full senate this semester.

Student Relations: Reba Leiding reported on a proposal to increase the time between classes to allow for travel between remote locations on campus. The SGA leadership will be invited to attend future senate meetings.

Institutional Budget Priorities: Val Larsen reported that the committee is currently looking at various reports that have been generated in the past which have dealt with the institutional budget.

Old Business:

Larry Ham asked the senators to review their e-mails and look at the report concerning the advising initiative. It indicated that the senate had approved the report. This is not the case.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

David P. Zimmerman, Secretary